



## **Alabama: The Cost of Inaction**

### **Alabama Families Suffer**

#### **Alabama insurance premiums skyrocket**

- ✓ In 1997, family health insurance purchased through an employer cost \$4,823.
- ✓ In 2006, the same family health insurance cost \$10,571.
- ✓ By 2016, the same insurance is projected to cost \$23,171, a 119 percent increase over 2006, which will consume 55.6 percent of projected Alabama median family income.

#### **More uninsured Alabamians**

- ✓ Every day, 180 Alabamians lose their health insurance.
- ✓ During the last two years, 1,222,000 Alabamians under age 65 went without health insurance for some time, which is 30.9 percent of the under 65 population.
- ✓ In 2007, 618,913 Alabamians under age 65 were uninsured for the entire year, which is 15.4 percent of the under 65 population.

#### **Alabamians pay higher premiums due to the uninsured**

- ✓ Alabama families pay a “hidden tax” of \$600 on their health insurance premiums due to the unpaid costs of care for the uninsured.

#### **Fewer choices due to consolidated market**

- ✓ The two largest health insurance companies in Alabama have a combined market share of 88 percent.

### **Alabama Businesses Suffer**

#### **Fewer Alabamians have health coverage at work**

- ✓ In 2002, 66.6 percent of Alabamians under age 65 had employer-sponsored health insurance.
- ✓ In 2007, 63.8 percent of Alabamians had coverage through their employer.

#### **Fewer Alabama small businesses offer health coverage**

- ✓ In 2000, 49.9 percent of small businesses were able to offer health insurance coverage to their employees.
- ✓ In 2006, 48.3 percent of small businesses offered health benefits.

### **Alabama Economy Suffers**

#### **Health care spending climbs**

- ✓ In 2004, Alabama spent \$23.2 billion on health care.
- ✓ This spending level represents \$5,135 per capita, and is 16.2 percent of the Gross State Product.

#### **Lost economic output of the uninsured due to shorter lives and poorer health**

- ✓ This year, the Alabama economy will lose \$1.7 billion - \$3.4 billion due to the shorter lives and poorer health of the uninsured.